

IN THE battle of life, the victor is seldom one whose ammunition makes the most noise.

The Topeka State Journal

WHILE the city and county fight over the care of the sick, what becomes of the victims?

HOME EDITION

TOPEKA, KANSAS, FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25, 1916—FOURTEEN PAGES

THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

GERMANS WITHIN 5 MILES OF BIG FORT

Take 7,000 More Prisoners; Brings Total to 10,000.

Today Occupy Six Towns Before Verdun.

FRENCH GUNS CHECK DRIVE Pause Temporary as Teutons Defend New Position.

Joffre Now at Front to Meet Enemy War Lord.

CONSTANT BATTLING IN AIR Aeroplane Fleets Clash Fiercely Above Field.

Paris Confident Enemy Cannot Penetrate Defenses.

London, Feb. 25.—By a battering assault, the Germans have smashed their way forward on an eight mile front, capturing six villages and farms north of Verdun and taking thousands of prisoners, Berlin reported this afternoon.

Not only the French wings but the French center has been hurled back to within six miles of Verdun, the German war office reported. The crown prince has stormed and taken the heights of Champ Neuville, barely five miles from Verdun, in a bend of the Meuse river.

The Germans today claim capture of Champ Neuville, Collette, Marmonville, Chambray and Ornes, villages or groups of farms extending in a line east from the Meuse and less than two miles from Verdun. The French center, Berlin reported, has been broken and hurled back upon Laumont, and the wings crippled under heavy German attacks.

French Ready for Em. The official statement from the French war office, while claiming that the German offensive is being halted, practically admits the capture of Champ Neuville, Beaumont, Ornes and villages and farms between them. "We are awaiting the position behind Beaumont on the heights of Champ Neuville and south of Ornes," reported the French war office, without specifically admitting the loss of these villages.

Berlin reported that French prisoners have now increased to 10,000. That the French losses, under the crown prince's onslaughts, have been very heavy.

Two War Lords Meet. In answer to the French claims that the Germans have suffered enormous losses, the German war office declared that the French losses thus far have been extraordinary.

Berlin also reported the capture of immense quantities of supplies, the exact amount having not yet been compiled. The two war lords of Europe are now directing the operations in the great battle of the front. Paris dispatches this afternoon reported that General Joffre has arrived at the French front and is personally directing the defense of the fortress. The news has created great enthusiasm in Paris.

Lull in Battle. Across the battlefield the Kaiser, surrounded by his ablest staff officers, and the crown prince, are planning the blow being struck in the greatest German offensive since the defeat of the Marne.

Though there is an apparent contradiction between the Berlin and French official statements, the latter reporting a lull of infantry action, it is believed the Paris official report covers later operations. It appears probable that the operations mentioned in Berlin occurred early last evening and that following these reported advances, there was little or no infantry fighting on the Verdun front, as Paris claims, this afternoon.

Check Only Temporary. The check reported to have been administered to the French Germans may be only temporary. All Paris dispatches today agreed that the German offensive has been halted. The lull in the Meuse woods mark the beginning of the greatest German offensive blow since the Marne. Early in the war, Paris dispatches quoted from what purported to be an order of the day issued by a German corps commander, in (Continued on Page Six.)

Princess is Glad to Be Plain American "Mrs." Once More

New York, Feb. 25.—"It is good to be plain American again. Good plain American 'Mrs.' is the best title I ever hope to hold. My divorce has made me happier than I have been for many, many months."

So the Princess Evelyn Engellieff declared today. Her divorce, granting full separation from her husband-prince has been made absolute. All day today there was a sort of celebration going on in the princess' apartments.

"Very soon now I shall bring my boy to this country," she said. "I want him educated as American boys always are. My children are to be Americans."

KAN. OIL RATE UP

Railroads Increase Freight Rate 3 Cents a Hundred.

Refiners of Kansas and Oklahoma Seek Court Restrainer.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Oil refiners of Oklahoma and Kansas will ask Federal Judge Carpenter today to restrain several railroads from effecting a proposed freight rate increase of 3 cents a hundred pounds to Nebraska points. George P. Boyle, former attorney for the interstate commerce commission, and David Stansbury, a former assistant district attorney, will present the plea of the refiners—the National Refining company of Ohio, and the Consumers' Refining company of Chicago.

A year ago the interstate commerce commission expressed an opinion that the increase was justifiable. It is said no order was ever entered, but the railroads immediately announced an increased rate. The action today will be the first attempt ever made in the courts, it is said, seeking an injunction of a proposed advance rate after the matter had been passed upon by the interstate commerce commission.

LADY WAR MEET

Daughter of Late J. P. Morgan To Be a Delegate.

Topeka to Send Envoy to Preparedness Council.

St. Louis, Feb. 25.—Miss Anne Morgan, daughter of the late John Pierpont Morgan, will be a delegate to the conference of mayors on national defense, which will begin here March 3. Word to this effect was received here today by Mrs. Philip N. Moore, president of the National Council of Women, which is one of the women's organizations that will be represented at the conference.

Mrs. Moore said that on Sunday, March 5, a women's mass meeting would be held here to "clinch the sentiment of the women of the country in their attitude toward the national defense, which is one of the women's organizations that will be represented at the conference."

William B. Brewster, secretary of the committee of mayors that called the conference, said today that he has secured promises of delegations from Topeka and Lawrence, Kan.; Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati, Louisville, Indianapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Des Moines, Omaha, Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kan.

PANIC ON FAKE RUMOR

Chicago Board of Trade to Investigate Slump in Wheat Price.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—A rumor, which was denied, but which, while it was current on the board of trade near the close yesterday, sent the price of wheat down seven cents, will be investigated by a committee of the board, it was stated today.

The rumor was to the effect that a German ambassador had been handed his passports. It began circulating about fifteen minutes before the close and denial of its truth came too late to check the decline. It is estimated roughly that bull leaders dumped six million bushels of wheat and forced other holders in this and outside markets to follow suit.

WHEAT MARKET RECUPERATES

Opens Higher Today and Panicky Symptoms of Yesterday Disappear.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Instead of showing a fresh break in values the wheat markets today surprised many traders by opening at an advance. Opening quotations: \$1.18 to \$1.19 for May and \$1.14 to \$1.15 for July. May was 1/4 to 1/2 higher than yesterday's close. The reason for the wheat's recovery seemed to be a reaction of the semi-panic selling of yesterday and optimism that some practical way out of the difficulty with Germany would be found.

Despite considerable nervousness that was shown by a series of rapid fluctuations, the market kept within a normal range today, the difference between highest and lowest prices being less than 3 cents. Closing prices were firm at 1/4 to 1/2 advance, with May \$1.18 and July \$1.15.

DEAD ONE NOT CRONES

Newark, N. J., Suicide Isn't Chicago Anarchist Soup Poisoner.

New York, Feb. 25.—The man who committed suicide yesterday in Newark, N. J., was not Jean Crone, the chief who attempted to poison Archbishop Mundelein and 300 guests at a banquet in Chicago, the police said today.

A patrolman who had known Crone for years said that while the man resembled the missing chief in many respects he was a much larger man.

KANSAS NEGROES

The Total Number in the State Placed at 51,854

In a Report by J. C. Mohler, Secretary of Agriculture.

WYANDOTTE COUNTY LEADS

Shawnee Is Second With a Population of 5,328.

Six Counties Have More Than 2,000 Negroes Each.

Kansas has a negro population of 51,854 and an Indian and Chinese population of 993, according to a report by J. C. Mohler, secretary of the state board of agriculture. The figures are taken from the recent decennial census returned and show Shawnee county second in negro population of the state. Jackson county leads in the number of Indians.

The Mohler report shows six counties with more than 2,000 negroes each, while eleven counties have a negro population of more than 1,000 each. Wyandotte county leads in the number of negroes, the record for the county showing a total of 11,724. Shawnee county is second with a colored population of 5,328. Montgomery is third with 2,932. Sedgewick is fourth with 2,590. Douglas county fifth with 2,370 and Atchison sixth with 2,175. In all of the six larger negro counties, excepting Atchison, the female population is greater than the male. Yet the record for the state shows more males than females. The report for the state gives a population of 26,930 negro males and 25,924 negro females.

The Mohler record showing Indians and Chinese contains reports of Indian or Chinese population in 28 of the 105 counties. In 16 of the counties, which includes the large Pottawatomie reservation, shows an Indian population of 493. Reports from other counties show a total of 993. Indians: 2, Brown, 78; Chautauqua, 14; Clay, 7; Cowley, 8; Doniphan, 31; Douglas, 37; Ford, 5; Franklin, 46. (Continued on Page 2.)

CITY HALL LYNCH

Mob Hangs Negro in Front of Municipal Building.

Woman He Attacked Shot Him During Struggle.

Cartersville, Ga., Feb. 25.—Jesse McCaskle, a negro about 30 years old, was taken from jail here early today and hung to a tree in front of the city hall. His body was riddled with bullets.

The negro was arrested last night charged with having broken into the home of Mrs. A. T. Heath, near here, and attacking her. She was caught still bleeding from a wound in the wrist where the woman had shot him, and with her pistol in his pocket.

One man, apparently the leader, called the jailer, who said later he thought a city policeman wanted to put a prisoner in jail. When he opened the door several men seized him and took his keys. Others rushed in and got the negro. The mob then went to the city hall, near the center of town, and hanged the negro to a tree. A volley of shots then were fired at the body. Heath is said to be in a serious condition.

PUT BOMB ON SHIP

German Merchant Involved in Alleged Plot Which Killed Three.

Rio Janeiro, Feb. 25.—A Bahia newspaper says that a box containing a bomb was put on board the Lamartine, a German merchant ship, at the request of a German merchant by a person whose identity has been discovered. The authorities have started an investigation.

It was announced on February 22 that the Tennyson on the previous day had put into port at Maranhao badly damaged as the result of an explosion believed by some to have been caused by an infernal machine and as a result of which three of the crew, one an American, were killed.

Serb War Hero Dead

Marseilles, Feb. 25.—(via Paris, Feb. 24.) The Serbian colonel, Yovan Cugrinovitch, has died in the military hospital here after a month's illness. He was the first Serbian to enter Adrianople at the head of his regiment and it was he who captured the Turkish commander.

Buy Fly Paper

Invention for \$1 Now He Is Rich

Portland, Ore., Feb. 25.—The man who introduced sticky fly paper into the United States runs a restaurant in Portland and uses screen doors and electric fans to keep the flies away. He learned to make sticky fly paper in Stuttgart, Germany, then came to America and started a bakery at Grand Rapids, Mich. He made a little of the fly paper to use in his windows. One day another German named Thum saw Schuffer's dollar and learned how to make the sticky stuff. Thum patented it and started a factory. The big corporation of Thum brothers is the result. Schuffer spent his dollar and came west.

SHE ASKED FOR \$5

Pearl Higginbottom Tells of Request From Man.

Story of Visits to the Rooms of Charles Smith.

PUT HIS ARM AROUND HER

When She Objected He Slapped Her, Pearl Says.

Preliminary Hearing in Statutory Offense Case.

Telling a simple story of the alleged attempt of Charles Smith, a one-armed piano player, to commit a statutory offense against her, Pearl Higginbottom, 13 years old and pretty, went on the stand in the court of Topeka this morning as the principal witness against Smith. When the preliminary hearing came up before Judge Fisher, Rad Lee, deputy county attorney, submitted to the court an amended complaint charging an attempted statutory offense against Smith. The amendment was allowed by Judge Fisher and the trial of the girl and her mother was taken. D. D. Mote, who with Ed Rooney, is representing Smith, waived testimony for defense. Then W. E. Atchison, county attorney, appeared in the court room and asked that the complaint be amended again to read as originally charging the commission of the crime. Mote objected as the defendant had been tried on the charge of attempting the offense. Judge Fisher adjourned court until afternoon at 2 o'clock when the matter was threshed out.

Owing to the nature of the case, the court room was cleared during the preliminary by Judge Fisher. The room was filled with spectators in expectancy of a ray testimony when Judge Fisher made the order. Marshal Frost cleared the room and the trial was started. Smith was ordered to file out of the court and was heard from the outside. After the hearing, Smith was taken to the jail.

Her Mother Testifies. Mrs. L. B. Higginbottom, mother of the girl, was the first to take the stand. She testified that her daughter was 13 years old. Until a few days ago Mrs. Higginbottom was employed as cashier and a musician at the Best amusements. She said she saw her daughter and Smith talking together at the Best.

Then the girl took the stand. Rad Lee began the direct examination. She testified that she ran away to Grove, Kan., where she was found by Hazel Gardner, age 17, dressed in boy's clothes she was a pupil in the Fifth grade at Harrison school.

"Do you know Smith?" asked Lee. "Yes." "How long?" "Since before last Christmas, when mother worked at the Best as cashier and piano player."

"Yes, about once a week." "When did you first meet Smith?"

"Met him before Christmas." "You talked to him?"

"Yes." "Who would start the conversations?"

"Mr. Smith." "Did he go anywhere with Smith?"

"No." "Ever go any place where he was?"

"Yes, to the room on West Sixth." "Why did you go there?"

"He told me he had something to show me."

"The first time you went there, who was there?"

"The landlady and Smith." "After she left after you came in, was there anyone besides you and Smith there?"

"No." "What did Smith do and say then?"

"He put his arm around me and told me how nice I was."

"Was there anything offensive then?"

"Did you go again?"

"Yes, a few days after that." "Who was with you?"

"Others were there." "Susie Zellington."

"Anyone else there?" "Ed Delaney."

The girl stated that Smith indirectly proposed improper acts. "I told him no," she testified. "And then I left."

"Did you go again?"

"Yes, three or four days later."

"Why?"

"He said he was sorry and promised not to act that way again."

"There was another girl with me when I went the third time," explained the witness. "When we got to Mr. Smith's room she combed her hair and went out. I went behind the door."

It was then the girl said Smith came in and made the attempt to commit improper acts. She claimed to have struggled but made no outcry.

"I refused," she said, "and he slapped me."

D. D. Mote then took the witness for cross-examination. Under Mote's questioning the girl stated that Smith asked the other girl in the room to go out.

"Why did you go up to Smith's room?" asked Mote.

"Because I cared for him."

"Did you ever ask him for money?"

KAISER TO YIELD?

Report Indicates Germany Would Not Break With U. S.

Latest Reply Asks Definition of Offensive Armament.

UPSETS BRITISH FORECAST

Document Will Reach Washington in 48 Hours.

Germans Won't Defy U. S. by More Sub Warfare.

London, Feb. 25.—Germany, in her reply to the latest representation from America, asks the United States to define offensive armament, according to the Amsterdam dispatches received here today.

The German foreign office, according to the Amsterdam report, asks the United States to specify what size of a gun it deems necessary for defense purposes. In this manner, Amsterdam reported, Germany hopes to force from the American state department an exact definition of offensive and defensive armament. This may prove embarrassing to owners of belligerent ships, which have been entering American ports with guns of comparatively large caliber.

Keep Issue Open. It is believed too, that Germany hopes in this manner to prolong the negotiations until a settlement in both countries over the new armed merchantmen crisis has subsided, when German diplomats will find an agreeable way of extricating themselves from an awkward position.

The report has naturally upset English forecasts of the Kaiser's plans. Previously, it was believed Germany had completed a new flotilla of submarines and had trained new crews, including the crew of the U-101, a renewal of submarine operations until the latest submarine flotilla had been destroyed by allied warships. The report, it was stated, is on the way to Washington and should be delivered to the American state department within forty-eight hours, possibly within twenty-four hours. Official circles here said the report is an indication that Germany does not want to break with America and is preparing to yield.

MAY TURN OFF GAS

City Refuses to Pay Bill Presented by Company.

Terms of Franchise Call for a Free Supply.

Will the Consumers' Light Heat & Power company treat the city like any ordinary gas consumer and cut off its gas because it refuses to pay its current bill?

The city refuses and it is up to the gas company. The department of public buildings received the first gas bill ever made out to it today and Commissioner W. L. Porter declared it would not be paid. It is for about \$20.

When the city gave the gas company a franchise authorizing it to lay its mains in the streets and alleys it stipulated that the city shall have free gas during the life of the franchise. The franchise is still alive but the gas company holds that the contract is a corpse.

The public utilities commission in granting an increase in the price of gas attempted to annul all existing franchise contracts under which cities were receiving their gas for nothing. Several of the cities have concluded that the commission overstepped its authority and have brought suit to set aside the order. The commission suits were brought by Atchison, Lawrence, and Topeka in the district court and were removed from there to the federal court where they are pending.

In the meantime Commissioner Porter proposes to stand on the old franchise agreement and refuses to O. K. the bill.

COLDEST IN 10 DAYS

The Temperature Still Is 4 Degrees Above Normal.

The temperature remains above normal and a continuation of the March variety of weather is predicted. The mercury went down to 27 degrees at 7:30 o'clock this morning, the lowest of the twenty-four hours. The wind has veered around to the west and the mercury is climbing. The Kaw river is still falling slowly.

Fair weather with not much change in temperature is the forecast. Temperatures of 25 degrees are predicted for 24-hour shipments in all directions by the shippers' forecast.

The lowest reading this morning, 27 degrees, is 4 degrees above normal for this date. The time when extreme temperatures might occur is rapidly passing, and nothing in the way of severe weather is in sight. The reading this morning was the lowest in the past ten days.

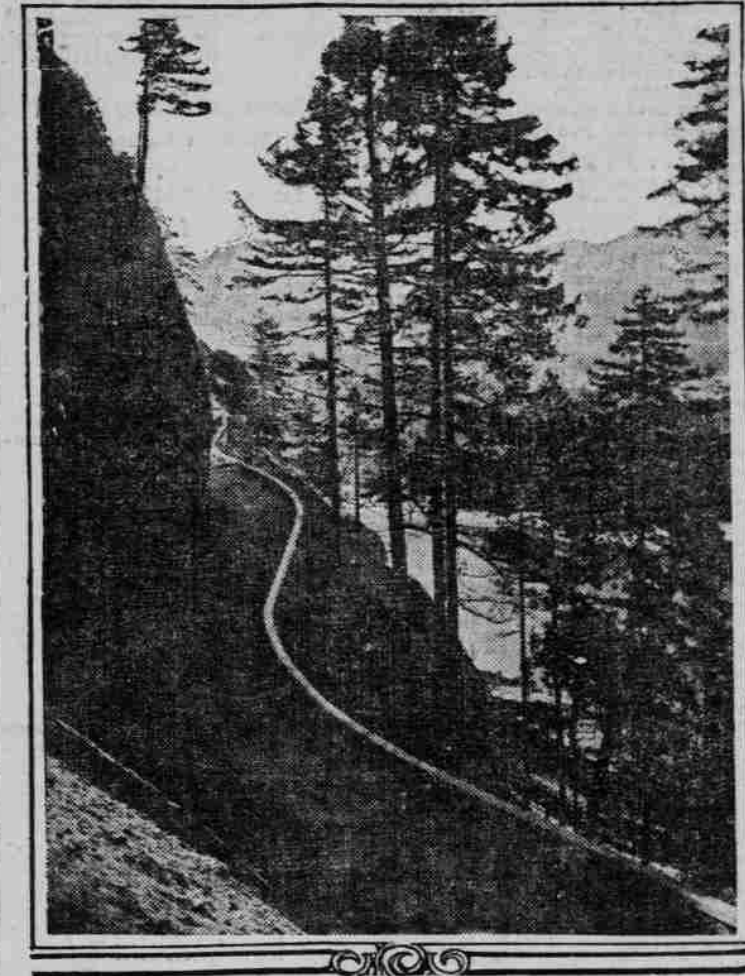
On this date in 1896 the highest temperature on record, 74 degrees, occurred. The low record is 6 degrees, established in 1913. The Kaw river fell three-tenths of a foot since Thursday morning, making the stage today 9 feet.

Temperatures today averaged 5 degrees above normal. The wind is from the northwest, blowing at the rate of 12 miles an hour. Following are hourly temperature readings furnished by the weather bureau:

7 o'clock.....35	11 o'clock.....38
8 o'clock.....32	12 o'clock.....41
9 o'clock.....29	1 o'clock.....40
10 o'clock.....34	2 o'clock.....45

Weather Forecast for Kansas. Fair tonight and Saturday; not much change in temperature.

OREGON TO DEDICATE HIGHWAY JUNE 7: CROWNED HEADS INVITED TO ATTEND



Columbia River Highway winding through gorge.

The beautiful Columbia River Highway in Oregon is to receive its dedication on June 7, and the crowned heads of Europe, as well as the president of the United States, have been invited to attend the ceremonies. The highway leads out of Portland and extends through the gorge of the Columbia river. The first forty miles was built at a cost of \$50,000 per mile.

GET S. O. S. SIGNAL BIG SANTA FE GAIN

All Passengers Rescued Off Liner After Collision.

Steamer and Coast Guard Pick Up Distress Message.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 25.—All of the passengers aboard the Merchants' and Miners' liner Cretan, which was damaged in collision with a schooner early today, 14 miles from Cape Hatteras, were safely transferred to the steamer Dorothy several hours later, according to a radio message received at the local office of the Merchants' and Miners' company.

The Cretan, with her captain and crew aboard and conveyed by the Dorothy, is en route to the port of Norfolk. Her bow is stove in and she is otherwise damaged. The condition of the schooner was not known here. The steamer Sul, James of the Mallory line, and the coast guard cutter Onondaga, hurried to the scene after picking up the "S. O. S." wireless signal.

The messages gave no further particulars. The Cretan is a vessel of 2,300 tons, registered to the Merchants' and Miners' Transportation company and hailing from Baltimore, Md. She was built at Chester, Pa., in 1882, and is 287 feet long. She has been engaged in service between Philadelphia and Jacksonville.

2 HLD UP TRAIN

Express Safe Withstood Five Charges of Dynamite.

Bandits Loot Registered Mail and Escape on Engine.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 25.—Two bandits, heavily armed, held up the Northern Pacific's outboard North Coast limited train near Covington, 25 miles east of Seattle, last night and after uncoupling the baggage and mail cars, which they ran a short distance up the track, stole five pouches of registered mail which had just been received from the Orient and was being forwarded to New York.

The bandits used five charges of dynamite in an attempt to blow open the express safe but the reports received shortly before midnight said the safe had withstood the effects of the explosion. Officials of the Northern Express company said the safe contained nothing but company reports being forwarded to St. Paul.

After robbing the mail car and failing to blow open the express safe, the robbers uncoupled the engine which they ran two miles up the track to within a mile of Ravensdale, where they abandoned the engine and escaped. Four of the registered mail pouches were found on the floor of the engine car. The pouches had been cut open and letters and packages rifled. Post office officials were unable to make even a guess as to the value of the loot obtained by the robbers.

On this date in 1896 the highest temperature on record, 74 degrees, occurred. The low record is 6 degrees, established in 1913. The Kaw river fell three-tenths of a foot since Thursday morning, making the stage today 9 feet.

AGED COUPLE DIE SAME

Hour; Married 68 Years

Brookfield, Mo., Feb. 25.—James Campbell and his wife, both ninety years old, who were stricken with cancer of the throat a week ago, died at almost the same hour today.

They had been married sixty-eight years.

BRYAN WIRES CONGRESS TO BEAT WILSON

Urges Members to Issue Warning to Americans.

In Direct Opposition to Policy Advocated by Wilson.

BUT WOODROW IS UNSWERVED

Is Told House Is Two to One Against His Plan.

Leaders Leave White House Declaring Situation Grave.

GERMANY POSTPONES THREAT

New U-Boat Raid on Merchantmen Deferred a Month.

Maintain Americans' Rights on Sea Is Executive's Demand.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Telegrams to congressmen from William Jennings Bryan supporting the movement for warning Americans off armed ships began arriving today. Representative Bailey of Pennsylvania received one and planned to read it from the floor.

Representative Bailey, after a conference with Majority Leader Kitchin, however, simply made public the telegram, which follows:

"I honestly hope that congress will speedily announce legislation refusing passports to Americans traveling on belligerent ships, or still better, refusing clearance to belligerent ships carrying American passengers."

"No owner of belligerent ships will claim that he has the right to safeguard a contraband cargo with American lives and no citizen should be permitted to endanger the peace of the nation at a time like this. Ours is the greatest of the neutral nations and will probably be the mediator when the time comes for mediation. It would be a crime against civilization as well as against our own people to become involved in this war and thus loan our army and navy to a European quarrel."

"If congress has the right to declare war it certainly has the right to promote peace by restraining citizens from making unnecessary risks. A major keeps the people of his country out of the danger zone during a riot. Can you tell me the situation of the world is in riot?"

"That is right," Representative Bailey quoted Mr. Kitchin as saying when he read the telegram.

Confers With Leaders. President Wilson reiterated his opposition to any action in congress warning Americans off armed ships in a conference early today with Speaker Clark. Majority Leader Kitchin and Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee also were present.

The president was unshaken in his position that congress should take no action embarrassing his contention that the rights of Americans at sea must be upheld at any cost and repeated what he had written last night to Senator Stone. The house would be done today, but they ventured no predictions for the future. They admitted that the situation was serious and could not forecast how far the sentiment in congress would be swayed by the publication of the president's views in his letter to Senator Stone.

Postpone Raid Law. When the conference was over Speaker Clark said there was a rumor that Germany would postpone the beginning of the new submarine campaign until April 1 or the middle of the month. He would not say whether he got his information from the president.

The sum and substance of the conference, of Speaker Clark said, "outside of an explanation made as to the temper of the house regarding the diplomatic situation with Germany and some argument on both sides, is fully set out in Senator Stone's letter to the president and the president's letter to Senator Stone."

"We explained to the president how the house felt, in our judgment. I told the president that this warning resolution would carry two to one if he ever got a chance for a vote."

"At the conclusion of the conference it was very clear to all that the president stands on his letter to Stone. We told the president that in the event of such a postponement all action in congress certainly would be (Continued on Page Six.)

THAT'S IT, BLAME US!

Entire Suffrage Cause Gets